

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00656 251308Z

51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CU-04 EUR-25 NIC-01 IO-14 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 078286

R 251142Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7899

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: GOS RELEASES MORE POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 581; (B) KHARTOUM 2765, DEC 73

1. GOS MARCH 24 RELEASED THOSE, INCLUDING SADIQ AL-MAHDI, ARRESTED AT TIME UNIVERSITY DISTURBANCES DEC 73 (REF B). APPARENTLY ONLY EXCEPTION IS KHALID HASSAN AL-TOM, MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE SUDAN COMMUNIST PARTY (SCP), REMAINS UNDER DETENTION.

MOST OF DETAINEES HAD COMPLETED FIRST THREE-MONTH PERIOD UNDER CUSTODY WITHOUT BEING CHARGED, AS PERMITTED BY STATUTE, AND GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY DECIDED AGAINST EXERCISING OPTION TO IMPOSE SECOND THREE-MONTH PERIOD. AL-MAHDI'S THREE-MONTH PERIOD APPARENTLY HAD FEW DAYS TO RUN, BUT HE NEVERTHELESS RELEASED FROM CUSTODY PORT SUDAN AND FLOWN BACK TO KHARTOUM EVENING MARCH 24. HE NOW IN HIS HOUSE IN OMDURMAN, AND POSSIBILITY EXISTS HE MAY STILL BE UNDER SOME FORM HOUSE ARREST.

2. COMMENT: DECISION PERMIT RELEASES AT THIS TIME, FOLLOWING ON THOSE MADE EARLIER IN MONTH (REF A), APPARENTLY REFLECTS GOVERNMENT CONFIDENCE IN B ITS ABILITY CONTROL INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION. MOREOVER, MOST
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00656 251308Z

DETAINEES JUST RELEASED HAD BEEN HELD ON PARTICULARLY FLIMSY

GRUNDS, UNLIKE CASES OF THOSE ARRESTED LAST SEPTEMBER.
CONTINUATION DETENTION AL-TOM, HOWEVER, INDICATES
GOVERNMENT REMAINS CONCERNED WITH, AND SUSPICIOUS OF,
SCP ACTIVITIES.
BREWER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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